



NEWS RELEASE

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MAJOR FREEWAY CLOSURES PLANNED FOR 60/91/215 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

RIVERSIDE – Over the next month, motorists can expect to encounter major freeway closures as work continues on the \$317 million 60/91/215 Improvement Project.

- **State Route 91** - Beginning Monday, Jan. 10 and continuing through Friday, Feb. 4, all westbound lanes of the State Route 91 Freeway will be closed from just before the interchange between the State Route 60 and the Interstate 215 freeways to just after the interchange, a distance of approximately 800 feet. The closures will occur on weeknights from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. the next day.

Motorists who normally travel along the westbound SR91 are advised to detour the closure by exiting SR91 at the westbound State Route 60, and exiting at either Main or Market streets. From there, motorists can simply turn left on Main or Market streets and double back onto the eastbound SR60, and ultimately transition to the westbound SR91. While the state's contractor anticipates work to occur on various days during the life of the closure, there may be some evenings when work could be suspended depending on heavy rains or other unforeseen reasons.

This closure is called in order to build metal and wooden falsework around existing freeway-to-freeway connector columns to support the future lanes of the connector. This sweeping connector ramp will be supported by 26 columns the range in varying heights up to more than 70 feet.

- **Interstate 215** – Beginning Monday, Jan. 3 and continuing through approximately Friday, Jan. 29, all lanes of the northbound Interstate 215 will be closed from the University Ave. Undercrossing to the Blaine/3rd St. Overcrossing. This closure will also occur during the night hours beginning at 9 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. the next day. Crews will erect falsework at the Linden and Iowa bridges over the freeway.

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Motorists can avoid this closure by exiting I-215 at University Ave., and traveling westbound on University Ave. to Chicago Ave. Motorists can then turn right on Chicago and proceed to 3rd St. At that point, motorists will turn right on 3rd St. and continue back to I-215.

These closures are part of a three-year effort to rebuild the interchange between the 60, 91 and 215 freeways. This interchange, which carries more than 460,000 vehicles each day, serves as a major commercial and tourist gateway between San Diego and the Riverside/San Bernardino attractions of Palm Springs and Big Bear. Construction on this project began last February and is expected to be completed in late 2007.

For project updates, call Caltrans directly at 1-866-60-91-215. Photographs of the construction process are frequently updated and can be viewed at http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/6091215project_pics_pg.htm. Planned lane closures for the entire project are updated weekly and can be viewed by accessing the Web site <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/schedule.htm>.

Motorists are advised to always drive with caution around any freeway construction and closure area. Remember to always be alert, be safe, and ***SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE.***

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